ABOUT FALSE HAIR.

Where It Comes From and How It Is Obtained.

"Nearly all the false hair that is sold in this country," said a hair dealer to a reporter recently, "is brought from France and Germany. It is obtained in those countries from the peasant girls. The Berlin and Paris merchants send their agents out through the country districts, and whenever one of these agents meets a lass with a fine crop of hair he immediately begins to bargain with her. As a rule the peasants know so little of the world, and are so utterly ignorant of the value of things, that they generally sell their hair at the most ridiculously low prices. It is nothing uncommon to see a French peasant girl dispose of the most magnificent suit of hair, a suit that we could sell for $75, for a worthless earring or a string of bright looking beads. If these merchants meet a girl on the road whose hair attracts them they never give the poor girl time to think, or opportunity to go home and consult her parents, but the moment she says 'yes,' out come their shears and off goes her magnificent hair, and the poor child's only return is a worthless trinket. It seems sad, but such is life—at least, hair merchant life.

After the hair has been all collected and brought into Paris and Berlin it is then put through a cleaning process and assorted and arranged. On all hair, as it comes from the head, there is, no matter how clean a person tries to keep her or himself, more or less dandruff. The hair is passed through a sort of wire net or chain, the wires of which are so close together that the hairs themselves can scarcely pass through. You would think this would cut the hair, but it does not. It only gets the dirt off, and it does so most effectually. After the hair is thus thoroughly cleaned it is assorted in proper colors, qualities and lengths. Then the black hair is again run over, and three more piles or heaps are made of it—the long black hairs, the medium and the short. The light hair is similarly assorted. Then the dealers mix the black and light hair together and make from them different shades. By mixing a jet black, for instance, with a color two shades lighter than jet black you get a color exactly one shade lighter, and this is the rule all through the different combinations of hair colors. A color mixed with another color that is two shades lighter than itself will produce a color one shade lighter, and a shade that appears to be perfectly natural. If the hair is mixed with a color that is more than two shades it will produce a streaky combination, which is, of course, to be avoided; but when the mixing is properly done not even an expert can tell the difference between the real color and the color that is the result of this skillful manipulation.

The French are the most expert hair mixers in the world, and many a blonde or brown suit of hair that looks so perfectly natural is, in reality, the product of two different heads and is the result of the ingenious French hair mixers. What does a head of hair cost? Well, of course, there is in hair, as in everything else, an immense variety of kinds, and consequently an immense variety of prices. Heads of hair can be bought as low as $15, and there are many that bring $75. For this latter price I should say that the very best suit of hair that can be found in Boston can be purchased. It does not cost a woman, or, I should probably say in order to keep in the fashion, a Mrs. Lady, as much to purchase her hair now as it did three or four years ago. The Mrs. Ladies do not wear near so much hair now as they did then, as anyone, even a Mr. Gentleman, can see by glancing at one of their heads. Consequently, while it formerly cost a fashionable female from $100 to $150 to perfectly adorn her head, supposing, of course, that she had no hair at all to start with, the same female can now buy the very best head gear in Boston at from $50 to $75. Is there much false hair worn in Boston? Oh, an immense deal of it. I indulge in no exaggeration when I say that there are not five women in 100 who do not wear some false hair."—Boston Herald.

Woman as a Reporter.

The least enterprising editor commonly knows enough, if he wishes a graphic report of some "social event," to send a woman. She will penetrate closed walls through a smaller cranny than any man, see more after she gets there, and bring out her booty in better condition. It does not follow that she likes this aspect of her work; but people naturally come to take a pride in whatever they do well, even if its beginnings were distasteful. Women who correspond with two or three different journals will sometimes lament the taste of their editor for gossip pure and simple, and bemoan the ruthlessness with which he strikes out all their little collateral efforts after artistic or literary expression. There is something appalling in taking half a dozen Sunday papers and laying side by side their columns of minute description.—T. W. Higginson in Harper's Bazar.

Signal Lamps in the Streets.

Signal lamps are now being put up on the streets of New York city. At the middle of the pole is a large iron globe, in which is a telephone, an electric call box and an apparatus for shooting a green glass globe around the gas jet of the lamp from directly beneath. The apparatus is connected by a wire with the police central office, and by pressing a button there the glass globe is made to rise where it can be seen by the policeman on post at a considerable distance during the day and at half a mile at night. The policeman who sees the signal may make use of the telephone to discover what he is wanted for, and in this way a captain at a station may speedily communicate with any of his men who has a lamp post of this sort on his post.—Chicago Times.

Shipping Frozen Milk.

It is proposed that milk should be frozen into blocks to be exported from New Zealand, to what country is not suggested; but it certainly would not pay to ship frozen milk to Europe. It appears that so much capital is being invested in cheese and butter factories in the colony that there is some fear of overproduction. —Chicago Times.

There are 190 college papers in this country.

LANTERNS AND LAMPS.

From the Ancients' Torches to the Burners of Modern Days.

Lanterns are an ancient institution. You remember that Diogenes used one in his eccentric efforts to discover something he did not believe in. The lanterns of the Greeks and Romans contained an oil lamp. Its sides were made of thin layers of horn, waxed parchment, linen or bladder. Glass lanterns were used in England as early as 705. They were expensive, however, and 1,000 years later the tin lantern was chiefly in use among the poor people. The Chinese excel in the manufacture of lanterns. They have used them for ages. Some of their mandarins have them built at a cost of thousands of dollars each. The word built is not out of place here, for these lanterns are twenty to thirty feet high and contain hundreds of candles. Their sides are often of rich colored silk. On Jan. 15 of each year they celebrate the "feast of the lanterns." Why? Oh, it's a way they have—they are heathens, you know.

No; candles are not the most primitive form of light. In Homer's time torches were used, even in the palaces of the wealthy. Rush lights, early in use, were rushes dipped in grease, pitch or wax. Lamp comes from a Greek word—lampas. The candles of Scripture are supposed to have been lamps in which olive oil was burned. The earliest lamps were shallow vessels of terra cotta, either round or oblong in shape. There was a small opening in the top in which the oil was poured; at the side was a handle, and opposite, a nozzle through which the wick protruded. This form of lamp is often represented in pictures. Many of them were ornamented with representations of war scenes and chariot races. Bronze lamps and golden lamps have been discovered of such beauty as to entitle them to rank among the choicest specimens of ancient arts. In the acropolis at Athens, according to a historian, was a golden lamp, large enough so that when filled it would burn night and day for a year. Above it was a bronze palm tree to carry off its fumes and act as a reflector. That was the kind of a lamp to have.

Speaking of primitive lamps, some are still to be found in the country districts. "While in West Virginia recently," said a traveling man, "I saw one that was primitive enough. A saucer was filled with grease, and over the edge of it hung a lighted wick. It spluttered some, but made enough light to render the darkness visible, and its heat was sufficient to light the pipes of the family. It was more used for that purpose than any other, it appeared to me, though it was the only light in the house. There are many people in the mountain regions whose only lights are tallow dips.

A form of the ancient Greek lamp is still in use among the Canadian French. In the remote districts of the land the cruisie, a similar lamp, is sometimes found. Olive oil, ground nut oil, poppy oil or other vegetable oils are used in various districts of the world. In the tropical regions cocoanut oil is used in lamps. The trade of candle making, usually combined with that of soap boiling, was once an important one. Franklin worked at it until he ran away. The chandler made wicks, molded and dipped his candles until driven out of business by the general adoption of whale oil as an illuminant early in the present century.

Improved lamps were introduced about a century ago. A Frenchman named Argand, in 1784, invented a burner with two concentric tubes, the inner one open for a current to pass through and the outer one containing the wick. He had a metal chimney to make it draw and carry off the smoke. Somebody soon found out that a glass chimney was better for that purpose. Argand's lamp, variously modified and improved, is the parent of all the best modern lamps.

Various substitutes for whale oil were tried during the present century, but none came into general use until coal oil was introduced. It was first made from cannel coal, and that is the way it got its name. The general development of the protroleum region in Pennsylvania, which began in 1859-60, soon destroyed the manufacture of coal oil, just as it was getting to be a profitable industry. Many improvements in lamps followed this discovery. But petroleum is not a new thing—neither is natural gas. Oil was found in a spring on Zacyuthus or Zant, one of the Ionian islands, 2,000 years ago, and was burned in lamps in Sicily at an early age. It was known to the Indians and to the western pioneers of America, but somebody had to discover how to get it in quantities and use it before the knowledge became of value to the world.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Portraits in the Newspapers.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett has decided views upon the appearance of the portraits of authors and prominent persons in newspapers or magazines. To a correspondent who recently solicited a copy of a portrait of herself for publication in a magazine the authoress wrote: "There is nothing more painful to contemplate than a picture of one's self in a book or newspaper. If one is a beauty one's reputation is instantly destroyed, and if one cannot afford to have any percentage taken off one's good looks the consequences are that one's secret hopes are blasted and one's most timid and modest confidence in one's self forever a ruin."—New York Star.

How the Seal Sleeps.

As they rest in the water, they seem to sleep as sound and as comfortable bedded on the waves or rolled by the swell as they do on the land.

They lie on their backs, fold the fore flippers down across the chest and turn the hind ones up and over, so that the tips rest on their necks and chins, thus exposing only the nose and the heels of the hind flippers above water, nothing else being seen.

In this position, unless it is very rough, the seal sleeps as serenely as did the subject of that memorable song who was "rocked in the cradle of the deep."—Youth's Companion.

Prohibited from Fine Dressing.

Saleswomen in a great many shops in Philadelphia are prohibited from fine dressing. In one establishment the girls are required to dress in black. In another dark colors, blue, brown or black are requested, and rich jewelry is not permitted.